

AFGE has challenged the executive order on official time as a violation of the right to freedom of association guaranteed by the First Amendment.

I was proud to have joined the amicus curiae brief in support of AFSCME's position in the case of *Janus v. AFSCME*, which supported and defended the need for unions and collective bargaining.

Eighty years ago the American labor movement was little more than a group of dreamers, and look at it now.

From coast to coast, in factories, stores, warehouse and business establishments of all kinds, industrial democracy is at work.

Employees, represented by free and democratic trade unions of their own choosing, participate actively in determining their wages, hours and working conditions.

Their living standards are the highest in the world.

Our labor unions are not narrow, self-seeking groups.

They have raised wages, shortened hours and provided supplemental benefits.

Through collective bargaining and grievance procedures, they have brought justice and democracy to the shop floor.

But their work goes beyond their own jobs, and even beyond our borders.

Our unions have fought for aid to education, for better housing, for development of our national resources, and for saving the family-sized farms.

They have spoken, not for narrow self-interest, but for the public interest and for the people.

Unions are as important as they ever were—because corporations are just as dedicated to their bottom line, regardless of the consequences for workers.

David Cox Sr., President of the AFGE, understood that “Federal employees understand what is needed to improve the internal workings of their agencies far better than private consultants.

“Federal workers and their representatives should play an important role in the development of organizational changes involving federal agencies and the services they provide.”

“Neglecting to seek input from employee representatives in the development of government-wide reorganization plans is counterproductive to any genuine effort to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of government.”

AFGE General Counsel David Borer astutely remarked that “These executive orders are clearly at odds with what Congress has mandated by law,” and that “These directives from the White House display a shocking lack of respect for the Constitution and represent a serious overreach of the president's executive powers.”

Indeed, these executive orders are not merely an affront to the blood and sweat of America's public servants—as great as that may be.

AFGE has also challenged the President's executive orders on the grounds that they exceed the president's authority under the U.S. Constitution by violating the separation of powers and exceeding current law.

The president has used our federal employees not only to frame them as a scapegoat for our nation's problems, but also to subvert Congress' place as an equal branch of government—an attack on our system of checks and balances befitting of a banana republic.

This constitutional crisis should concern us all.

This attack on our federal employees disrupts the effectiveness of our government, labor rights across the nation for all professions, and the integrity of our very system of government.

I urge all of my colleagues to reflect the dedication that these federal employees have shown in serving our nation, and work to resist the arbitrary, despotic attacks that the President has levied against them.

RECOGNIZING MONTANA'S WINNERS IN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL FINALS RODEO

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize six young Montanans who are among the best in the sport of rodeo.

The National High School Finals Rodeo concluded last weekend in Rock Springs, Wyoming. The competition featured nearly 1,500 of the top contenders from across the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Australia.

Montana was well represented, and six competitors from Big Sky country earned a coveted Top-Ten Buckle.

Alaina Griffel of Columbus placed eighth in breakaway roping. Shai McDonald of Gardiner finished eighth in barrel racing. Meghan McGinley from Bozeman placed tenth in goat tying. Jhet Murphy and Luke Murphy from Helena finished eighth in team roping. Morgan Rising of Wibaux placed seventh in bull riding.

Rodeo is a time-honored sport in Montana and part of our way of life. Montana's young rodeo athletes work hard to compete at the highest level. I congratulate these young Montanans for their excellence at the National High School Finals Rodeo and for being among the best in the world.

CONGRATULATING THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN SOCIETY TEAM

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the 31 young men and women from the Northern Mariana Islands who performed so admirably at the International Thespian Society Festival in Lincoln, Nebraska last week. Marianas team members earned Superior Medals and even perfect scores at the event.

Winners of Superior Medals were Jonathan and Lars Wolf of Dan Dan Middle School, Louise Li and Julia Malate of Marianas High School, Elizabeth Rose Jones of Kagman High School and the members of Marianas High School's glee club, “Rythym N' Harmony”: Miguel Aninon, Roland Balajadia, Angela Barbo, Eden Conner, Jefferson Cunanan, Donna Galvez, Lesly Ibarra, Leonard Manuel, James Reyes, Charley Sablan, Clarisse Torio,

and Rinisa Torres. The Wolf brothers performed a duet acting piece, Jones performed a solo musical theatre piece, Rythym N' Harmony won two medals for group musical performance while Li and Malate won their medals in non-performance categories, Li for theatre marketing and Malate for costume design.

Li and Malate also received perfect scores for their performances, with Rythym N' Harmony scoring perfectly twice.

The rest of the team performed superbly as well, most receiving ratings of “excellent” for their work. From Dan Dan Middle School is Juliet Inocencio, from Hopwood Junior High School is Edgardo and Vladimir Palma, from Francisco M. Sablan Middle School is Christine Munar, from Grace Christian Academy is Su Min (Melody) Woo and from Marianas High School is Rouxiang (John) Lu, Kaye Ann Obando, Michaela Gatdula, Anjenette Cubangbang, Casey Huliganga, Lance Elayda, Chloe Salvosa, Deirdre Rosete, Kasandra “Myka” Villegas and Kelvin Wolf.

Most of these students had to compete throughout the school year to earn a spot on the team roster. But our senior thespians were chosen to participate in an invitation-only Chapter Select Showcase. Their stage production of “The Internet is Distract—OH LOOK, A KITTEN” by Ian McWethy was an effort that included collaboration from several different schools. Kagman High School Coach Joy Jones directed. The Marianas High School Art Club painted backdrops. And public relations and technical support were the work of the Senior Art Club under the direction of Marianas High School Coach Jonel Alepuyo with the participation of all senior performers. The team took home a recognition trophy.

In addition to the ratings and medals, the festival was an opportunity for some of our rising seniors to showcase their talents for colleges in hopes for recruitment. Rouxiang (John) Lu and Su Min (Melody) Woo both got at least 20 call backs and Kelvin Wolf and Clarisse Torrio got at least 10 call backs each.

Of course, these young, aspiring entertainers could not have been so successful without the team of faculty coaches who helped them hone their skills. Coaching the junior thespians were Kristine Wolf of Dan Dan Middle School and Harold Easton of Marianas High School. Coaching the junior thespians were Karen Alla and Jonel Jones of Marianas High School and Joy Jones of Kagman High School. I thank them all.

In addition to their own performances the Marianas team participated in daily workshops, saw performances by fellow thespians from around the country, and got the chance to meet and mingle with fellow members of the International Thespian Society, the honor society for middle and high school theatre students that hosts this festival each year. It is truly an enriching and educational experience.

Please join me in congratulating the Marianas Team for their outstanding performances at the 2018 International Thespian Festival.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF DR. BURTON RICHTER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary American, a